Erin M. Everett

Acadia University
Wolfville, NS

Biology
Bachelor of Science (Honors), May, 2003

NASA Academy Research Project: Hypergravity Effects on the Maternal-Fetal System

Principal Investigator: Dr. April E. Ronca

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Education and Experience:

Having spent my childhood in the tiny fishing community of Victoria Beach, Nova Scotia, surrounded by abundant wildlife and the world's highest tides, it is no wonder that I developed an interest in the world around me. As a child, I enjoyed collecting and observing periwinkles, starfish and other sea critters in my makeshift ice-cream tub aquariums.

I am presently completing a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Biology at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Last spring, I received a Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) award to fund my honours research. My project allowed me to once again play with sea critters and focused on evolutionary mitochondrial genetics and sperm fitness in blue mussels. This required me to design creative and multidisciplinary methods.

My educational experience has been enriched by opportunities that have allowed me to share my enthusiasm for science education. I have been a teaching assistant in ecology, vertebrate physiology and chemistry courses. In addition, I work as a vertebrate physiology lab technician. Last year, I traveled throughout New England as Acadia's Facility and Program Development Student Representative.Working with faculty, I helped design innovative program and facility strategies for Acadia. I also traveled to Project Kaleidoscope, a conference aimed at improving undergraduate science education. As the only student present, I feel I provided an important perspective.

Although I have diverse interests, my passion is medicine and I look forward to attending medical school next year. My love of human biology was first sparked in high school by an enthusiastic biology teacher and a co-operative education placement in a health centre. More recently, I have been drawn to the dynamic and multidisciplinary field of aerospace medicine. Although I am interested in classical medicine and how it looks at abnormal physiology in normal environments, I am eager to explore how normal physiology is affected by abnormal environments.

Extracurricular Activities:

In the last four years, I have been involved in a variety of activities both on and off campus. I volunteer at the local community health clinic, children's centre, and nursing home. Also, I am an executive member of the Acadia Biology Society. At this position, I founded BioBuds, a peer mentoring program between upper year and incoming biology students. I also enjoy singing in Acadia's International Gospel Choir. When I'm not at the lab or involved in these activities you can usually find me at aerobics, throwing a softball around, wandering in the woods or planning theme dinners and other social events.